

CLAIMS

1. A liquid reserving analytical tool comprising a flow path for moving a sample, a sample introduction port, and a liquid
5 reservoir for reserving the sample to be introduced into the flow path;

wherein the flow path and the liquid reservoir are configured to cause suction force to act on both the flow path and the liquid reservoir, the suction force acting on the liquid
10 reservoir becomes smaller than the suction force acting on the flow path.

2. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 1, wherein a sectional area of the liquid reservoir in a
15 perpendicular direction which is perpendicular to a movement direction of the sample is larger than a sectional area of the flow path in the perpendicular direction.

3. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 2,
20 wherein the liquid reservoir is larger than the flow path in capacity.

4. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 3, wherein the capacity of the liquid reservoir is set to 2 to
25 4 μL , whereas the capacity of the flow path is set to no more than 2 μL .

5. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 2, wherein the flow path and the liquid reservoir are provided on a plate member, and

wherein a dimension of the liquid reservoir in a thickness direction of the plate member is larger than a dimension of the flow path in the thickness direction.

6. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 5, wherein a dimension of the liquid reservoir in a width direction and a dimension of the flow path in the width direction are equal or generally equal to each other.

7. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 2, further comprising a first plate member, and a second plate member stacked on the first plate member via at least one spacer.

8. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 7, wherein said at least one spacer includes at least one first spacer and at least one second spacer,

wherein a dimension of the flow path in a thickness direction of the first and the second plate members is defined by said at least one first spacer, and

wherein a dimension of the liquid reservoir in the thickness direction is defined by said at least one first spacer and at least one second spacer.

9. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 8, wherein said at least one first spacer defines a dimension of the flow path in a width direction.
- 5 10. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 9, wherein said at least one first spacer and at least one second spacer include a cutout for defining a dimension of the liquid reservoir in the width direction.
- 10 11. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 10, wherein the cutout of said at least one first spacer and at least one second spacer has a width which increases as the cutout extends away from the flow path in a direction opposite from the movement direction.
- 15 12. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 8, wherein said at least one second spacer includes a plurality of spacers stacked in the thickness direction.
- 20 13. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first plate and the second plate includes a bulging portion which projects in the thickness direction of the first and the second plates to secure the capacity of the liquid reservoir.
- 25 14. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim 13, wherein the sample introduction port is open in a direction

opposite from the movement direction.

15. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
7, wherein at least one of the first plate and the second plate
5 includes a recess denting in the thickness direction of the
first and the second plates to secure the capacity of the liquid
reservoir.

16. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
10 15, wherein the sample introduction port is open in the thickness
direction.

17. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
1, wherein the suction force to act on the flow path and the
15 liquid reservoir is caused by capillary action.

18. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
1, wherein, in the flow path, a reagent portion is provided
which shows a color in accordance with an amount of a target
20 component contained in the sample so that analysis of the target
component can be performed by an optical method.

19. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
1, wherein the tool is adapted to use a biochemical sample.

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20. The liquid reserving analytical tool according to claim
19, wherein the tool is so designed that the sample introduction

port can be brought into close contact with skin to extract blood from the skin when whole blood is used as the sample; and

wherein the sample introduction port is in the form of
5 a regular polygon or generally regular polygon, or is circular or generally circular.